

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Public Input Sought for New Museum At Donner Memorial State Park

TRUCKEE: The Sierra District invites public comment in the development of design priorities and identification of potential environmental impacts associated with the construction of a new High Sierra Crossings Museum at Donner Memorial State Park (SP).

The meeting will be held on October 12, 2004, from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., at the Donner Memorial SP Emigrant Trail Museum. The museum is located just inside the main park entrance, off Donner Pass Road in Truckee, California.

The project site consists of approximately five acres in Donner Memorial State Park, at the eastern end of Donner Lake. Access to the site would be from Donner Pass Road (old Highway 40), approximately one-quarter mile west of the existing main park entrance.

The proposed museum building would have approximately 10,000 square feet of floor space and would accommodate a lobby/orientation area, theater, exhibit space, gift shop, public restrooms, and staff offices. The building would be sited about 175 feet inland of the Donner Lake shoreline, approximately 500 feet south of Donner Pass Road. It would replace the existing Emigrant Trail Museum, which would be converted to District staff offices. Public restrooms at the current museum site would remain open to the public.

A paved access road would be constructed from Donner Pass Road to the new museum parking area and would include a left turn lane and acceleration/deceleration lanes on Donner Pass Road to reduce traffic impacts. The parking lot would be a pay-for-use lot and accommodate a minimum of 70 regular motor vehicles, in addition to handicapped spaces and room for up to three buses. The parking lot adjacent to the existing Emigrant Trail Museum would serve as an overflow parking area for both regular vehicles, recreational vehicles, and buses.

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An interpretive trail around and adjacent to the new museum site and a trail connecting the existing Emigrant Trail Museum and proposed new museum will also be considered as part of the environmental review for the High Sierra Crossings Museum project, but will be completed at a later date, as funding allows. These trails would be accessible, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The primary purpose of the scoping process is to identify, rather than to debate, community ideas and concerns. We invite written comments from interested parties to ensure that the full range of issues related to the museum project are considered. Comment cards will be available at the meeting or you can send your comments to:

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All comments received, including emails and faxes, should include full names and addresses. These will become part of the official administrative record and may be made available to the public.

Directions and a map to the park can be found on the California State Park website:
http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=503

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